

THE OAKWOOD HEIGHTS LANTERN

NEWS ACTIVITIES OF THE OAKWOOD
HEIGHTS HOME OWNER ASSOCIATION
("OHHA")
www.ohha.org

ISSUE NO. 3
August 2004

BLOCK PARTY

It is that time of year again! Bring a dish! A tentative date has been set for our annual block party – Sunday, September 12. The rain date will be Sunday, September 19. An alternative location was suggested by one of our members. However, the space was deemed insufficient because we would like to arrange for the fire department to visit again with a truck.

We are asking our neighbors on Oakwood Avenue to bear with us again for the use of their block. We invite them to participate and enjoy the event. A flyer will be delivered by hand or mail to confirm the dates and give details.

THE LORRAINE TERRACE PROJECT

We made an inquiry to the Building Department regarding the updated status of the sale of the strip of land to developers. Commissioner Ralph Tedesco has not heard from the developer. We assume that the project is dead, but we will continue to be diligent on this matter.

EMPTY LOT ON MAGNOLIA AVENUE

It will be two years since a fire destroyed the home at 17 Magnolia Avenue. After an extended period of time, the house was sold and eventually demolished. We expected permits to be filed and a house to be rebuilt but nothing has happened. Weeds and wildlife have taken over the property. After members of our Committee pressured the appropriate City departments, a crew was sent to clear the property.

VACANT PROPERTY ON MAGNOLIA AVENUE

The property at 11 Magnolia Avenue has been vacant for several years. An abandoned car is parked in the driveway and weeds have invaded the property. The weeds have been cleared up but we are still pressuring the City to remove the car.

HOLMES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In the face of overwhelming opposition from the parents and a great number of residents of Oakwood Heights, the Board of Education abandoned the proposal to convert Holmes Elementary into a middle school. We thought it was an ill-conceived plan and are happy with the end result.

SPEED BUMPS

Residents on Sycamore, Magnolia and Mersereau have made complaints to the City of excessive speeding and have proposed the use of speed bumps. The City has denied the requests. The Police Department has made sporadic surprise visits and written tickets but that is a short-term solution. Other neighboring cities have adopted speed bumps to slow down traffic so we don't understand what makes Mount Vernon unique. We believe that speed bumps would increase safety for our residents without posing any danger for drivers.

ABANDONED BUILDING ON LORRAINE AND COLUMBUS AVENUES

The entrance to our neighborhood from Columbus Avenue has been an eye sore for a very long time and unfortunately things are not getting better. In fact, they are getting considerably worse. The building on Columbus Avenue had a gaping hole on the sidewalk for many months. The hole has finally been fixed but the area is surrounded by weeds and is a disgrace to the neighborhood. OHHA has written a letter to the attorney of the owner of record to register a complaint and inquire as to the future of the building. We are awaiting a reply. If we don't receive a reply, we will seek other avenues for a resolution.

LORRAINE AVENUE PLAYGROUND

We were pleased when the City upgraded the playground and enclosed it with a very elegant fence and gate. However, what is the use of a gate that stays open all night? Teenagers are there late at night and it is alleged that gambling is taking place there as well. We have questioned the City about the upkeep of the playground and about the application of a dusk curfew. We have noticed a response since the flower beds were planted but it remains to be seen if a curfew will be enforced.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Please remember that the \$20 membership fee is due every September. Dues are used toward the various mailings throughout the year, insurance and permit fees for our Block Party, maintaining our website and any other expenses that may arise. You can pay your 2004-2005 dues at the Block party or send a check payable to Oakwood Heights Homeowners Association and mail it to Fiorella Kelley, 16 Magnolia Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10553.